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Town Topics

Admiral Started in Army

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By Marie McNair

A FEW of Adm. Jerauld Wright's many navy friends gathered around him yesterday afternoon at the French Embassy as Ambassador Hervé Alphand decorated him with the insignia of the Legion of Honor . . . as a token of friendship and in gratitude for his services to the cause of the Allies and that of the Alliance."



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Mrs. Wright and her daughter, Marion stood by, and in the group to offer their congratulations with the champagne were Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Fred Korth, Chief of Naval Operations and Mrs. George W. Anderson, former Chief of Naval Operations and Mrs. Arleigh Burke, Adm. and Mrs. Robert B. Carney and Gen. Douquet, chief of the French group at NATO, and Mme. Douquet.

Also at the ceremony were Central Intelligence Agency Director John McCone, and Mrs. McCone, Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Redway, former CIA Director and Mrs. Allen Dulles, and Gordon Gray former Secretary of the Army, and later director of the Office of Defense Mobilization.

The Admiral who retired from active duty two years ago, spent his "first 16 years in the Army". He's the son of the late Maj. Gen. William Mason Wright, USA,

and spent most of his boyhood in Washington. His long Navy career included two top assignments—Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, and Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

But the Admiral sometimes considers his most important assignment in World War II was when he paddled Gen. Mark Clark in a kayak from a submarine to a North African rendezvous with the Free French three weeks before the Allied invasion.

When the waves un-ended their kayak, General Clark lost his pants but the paddles were saved.